

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended)) A multiple access subscriber link providing telecommunications between customer premise equipment and external networks, comprising:

first external network interface facilities having non-dedicated time shared multiplexer components for processing broadband transmission of voice, data and/or signaling;

second external network interface facilities having multiple dedicated line cards for handling narrowband plain old telephone (POT) transmissions;

a subscriber server having interconnections with multiple customer premise devices;

a conductor wire pair with a remote end connected to said first and said second external network interface facilities, and with a local end connected to said subscriber server; and

a subscriber telephone having a safety life line connectable through the conductor wire pair to said second external network interface facilities for providing a backup communication link through said dedicated line cards in said second external network

interface facilities when ~~a system or component failure occurs~~ there is a failure of a system or component associated with any of said first external network facilities, said subscriber server, and the customer premise equipment.

13. (Currently amended) The subscriber link of claim 12 further comprising a switch for providing a safety life line bypassing components in said subscriber server when ~~a system or component failure occurs~~ there is a failure of a system or component associated with any of said first external network facilities, said subscriber server, and the customer premise equipment.

14. (Currently amended) The subscriber link of claim 12 further comprising a switch for providing a safety life line bypassing multiplexer components in said first external network when ~~a system or component failure occurs~~ there is a failure of a system or component associated with any of said first external network facilities, said subscriber server, and the customer premise equipment.

15. (Currently amended) The subscriber link of claim 12 further comprising an analog subscriber telephone using a first portion of a frequency spectrum of said the multiple access subscriber link as a safety life line when ~~a system or component failure occurs~~ there is a failure of a system or component associated with any of said first external network facilities, said subscriber server, and the customer premise equipment.

16. (Previously presented) The subscriber link of claim 15 wherein said analog subscriber telephone is permanently connected to a line card of said second external network interface facilities.

17. (Currently amended) The subscriber link of claim 12 which further includes a line monitor for triggering a switch to connect a safety life line to a line card when a ~~system or component failure occurs~~ there is a failure of a system or component associated with any of said first external network facilities, said subscriber server, and the customer premise equipment.

18. (Previously presented) The subscriber link of claim 12 wherein said backup communication link through said line cards serves as a termination of an analog subscriber phone line as well as interfacing digital communications to a calling/called plain old telephone (POT) connection.

19. (Previously presented) The subscriber link of claim 12 which further includes a subscriber analog telephone capable of pulse or DEMF dialing, and connectable to a safety life line.

20. (Currently amended) A multiple access subscriber link providing telecommunications between customer premise equipment and external networks, comprising:

first external network interface facilities having non-dedicated time shared multiplexer components for processing broadband transmission of voice, data and/or signaling;

second external network interface facilities having multiple dedicated line cards for handling narrowband plain old telephone (POT) transmissions;

a subscriber server having interconnections with multiple customer premise devices;

a conductor wire pair with a remote end connected to said first and said second external network interface facilities, and with a local end connected to said subscriber server; and

an analog subscriber telephone having a safety life line connectable by a switch through the conductor wire pair to said second external network interface facilities for providing a backup communication link through said dedicated line cards in said second external network interface facilities when ~~a system or component failure occurs~~ there is a failure of a system or component associated with any of said first external network facilities, said subscriber server, and the customer premise equipment, said switch bypassing said multiplexer components in said first external network interface and said subscriber server.

21. (Currently amended) A multiple access subscriber link providing telecommunications between customer premise equipment and external networks, comprising:

first external network interface facilities having non-dedicated time shared multiplexer components for processing broadband transmission of voice, data and/or signaling;

second external network interface facilities having multiple dedicated line cards for handling narrowband plain old telephone (POT) transmissions;

a subscriber server having interconnections with multiple customer premise devices;

a conductor wire pair with a remote end connected to said first and said second external network interface facilities, and with a local end connected to said subscriber server; and

an analog subscriber telephone having a safety life line connectable through the conductor wire pair to said second external network interface facilities for providing a backup communication link through said dedicated line cards in said second external network interface facilities ~~when a system or component failure occurs~~ there is a failure of a system or component associated with any of said first external network facilities, said subscriber server, and the customer premise equipment, wherein said safety life line connection is provided using a first portion of a frequency spectrum of said ~~the multiple access~~ subscriber link.